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**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
2430 E Street, NW
Washington 25, D.C.**

9 February 1949

**Mr. Malcolm A. Frost
Head, BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, England**

Dear Malcolm:

Thanks very much for your letter of 3 February 1949.

Upon receipt of your message suggesting that I meet you and General Jacob in Cyprus, [redacted] was away on leave and [redacted] had been involved in an automobile accident and will be out of the office for several weeks due to his injuries. I, therefore, have not yet had an opportunity to discuss the matter with [redacted]. However, I should like to explain in a little more detail my feelings in this matter.

First of all, we are under considerable pressure from our consumers to provide more and better Far East coverage at an earlier date than our new station on Okinawa will be activated. You, too, I am sure are also interested in this coverage. I have been exploring the possibility of starting an interim operation some time before summer. As you know, this requires a great deal of administrative and operational arrangements, including communications, recruiting, staffing, housing, etc. To complicate things, the contractor's first shipload of construction materials was lost completely when his ship ran aground in the harbor. I do not know yet how much, if any, this is going to delay our project. Nevertheless, the interim operation is far from crystallized at the moment and I feel that I should give it my attention until plans are rather firmly laid.

Secondly, I had hoped and expected that [redacted] would be in operation on 1 March. Now it appears that 1 April will be the earliest and I doubt very seriously if 30 days will be long enough for him to shake-down so that we can get a fair appraisal of the capabilities of his station.

Larry will have just visited both London and Cyprus and the expenditure of funds could hardly be justified except to participate in our formal meeting.

For these reasons I am sure that you will agree with me that it may be unwise for me to plan on coming to Cyprus at this time. I shall,

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however, discuss this matter with [redacted] and
advise you further when we can more accurately appraise the progress
being made toward our interim operation on Okinawa, as well as at
Cyprus.

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Sincerely,

L. K. White

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cc: OO
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